

Appl. No. : 09/754,949
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claim 20 is that in the method of claim 20 the host cell endogenously expresses Par-4 rather than being transfected with nucleic acid encoding Par-4. As the methods of original claims 1 and 20 are very similar, they would not have a separate status in the art and the searching would be co-extensive. Thus, Applicants believe that the amendment of claim 1 is appropriate in view of the restriction requirement and respectfully request examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1 - 4, 6, 9 and 17 have been amended as follows:

1. A method for identifying inhibitors of neuronal degeneration comprising:
(aA) (1) cotransfecting eukaryotic host cells expressing a presenilin protein (PS), with a polynucleotide encoding a Par-4 polypeptide, and an NF- κ B dependent reporter construct, (b2) exposing the cotransfected cells to a candidate molecule, and (e3) monitoring the ability of said candidate molecule to induce NF- κ B activation; or
(B) (1) transfecting eukaryotic host cells endogenously expressing Par-4 and a presenilin (PS) protein with nucleic acid encoding an NF- κ B dependent reporter construct, (2) exposing the transfected cells to a candidate molecule, and (3) monitoring the ability of said candidate molecule to induce NF- κ B activation.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said eukaryotic host cells of part (A) are mammalian cells endogenously expressing PS.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said eukaryotic host cells of part (A) are mammalian cells transfected with nucleic acid encoding PS.
4. The method of claim 31 wherein said PS is PS1.
6. The method of claim 31 wherein said PS is FAD PS.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein said eukaryotic host cells of part (A) are neuronal cells.
17. The method of claim 1 wherein the transfected or cotransfected cells are exposed to a plurality of candidate molecules.